

Chapter 15

ANALYZING THE ELDERLY LIVING HOUSE PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED FOR ELDERLY IN TURKEY¹

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Introduction

According to nursing home and elderly care and rehabilitation centers for nursing home regulation old age is an inevitable period in human life. What is important in this period is to be able to overcome this period to meet our needs. Various studies are being conducted towards this topic. The subject of the “Elderly Living House Project” is providing care for elderly at homes who are cared at “Elderly Care and Rehabilitation Centers” or who have the conditions for accepting to the institution and who are able to meet their social, psychological and physical needs independently and the elderly can be accepted to these institutions by the joint decision of the social and health services. With this project, it is aimed to raise the living standards of elderly people who are provided with social life harmony in the elderly living house and to provide care in the home environment. When this goal is attained, the extension of the old life-style house as a continuation of the project is ultimately aimed. The goal of the project is raising the standards of living and providing care in the home environment without the abstraction of the social environment of our elderly people who prefer to live in the elderly living house and who have the conditions of nursing home acceptance (Huzurevleri ile Huzurevi Yaşlı Bakım ve Rehabilitasyon Merkezleri Yönetmeliği).

The Concept of Old Age

Some people expressed that aging means change, loss, and not being able to do anything. One said, “Getting older means more years to add to your life, less active, less hair, more medicine, more wrinkles, arthritis, and more forgetful.” They felt that when people get older, they lose their dignity and independence. Common responses included the following. “Being old means you need someone to help.” “Being old means not being able to do anything.” They were sorry for older persons who could not take care of themselves (Chen,2001).

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In summary, the *following results* appear in the elderly living houses project:

- Elderly can stay in home environment,
- They are more active in social life,
- Their living standards can rise,
- They can visit family members and continue their past life experiences and habits,
- Care will be provided them in the home environment,
- The application of active aging policies is important for minimizing the risks,
- Introducing alternative service models for the elderly,
- Supporting the improvement of quality of life,
- Dissemination of elderly living house application,
- Communication will be increased with the social environment,
- Administrative and occupational measures can be taken for protecting psycho-social and physical health and safety of elderly people in the elderly living house,
- Adequate and relevant cooperation with non-governmental organizations is provided for the effective life in elderly home services.

There has been an increase in old age rates due to the changes that have occurred today. It is important to provide support to the elderly and to provide them with the necessary support for health, care, and to ensure their integration into the family and community. Considering that everyone will grow old one day, it is necessary to prevent them from breaking out of life and to see them as an important value of society. The application of elderly living homes also increases the quality of the service given to the elderly.

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